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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /075 W
----------128526 211549Z /45
O R 211455Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6693
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0952

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BQG, WB, UR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ABRASIMOV-STOBBE RETURN LUNCHEON

REF: USBERLIN 0474

SUMMARY: BERLIN SENAT HAS ADVISED ALLIED MISSIONS THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAS INVITED BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE FOR RETURN LUNCHEON APRIL 26 IN EAST BERLIN. SENAT OFFICIALS SAY STOBBE WILL GO IF VAN WELL AND WISHNEWSKY APPROVE. FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS TO MEETING, BUT WE EXPECT THEY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK LUNCHEON. END SUMMARY

1. THE GOVERNING MAYOR ADVISED THE ALLIES THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAS INVITED HIM TO A RETURN LUNCHEON AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN APRIL 26. INITIAL CONTACT FOR LUNCHEON WAS MADE THROUGH PRIVATE CITIZEN IN WEST BERLIN. STOBBE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE MEETINGS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ARRANGED THROUGH ANONYMOUS INTERMEDIARIES;
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IF SOVIETS WISH TO MEET WITH HIM THEY SHOULD DO SO IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER. CONSEQUENTLY, LUNCHEON INVITATION TO STOBBE WAS THEN EXTENDED THROUGH SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL IN WEST BERLIN BYKOV. STOBBE INTENDS TO ACCEPT INVITATION IF BONN GIVES ITS APPROVAL.

2. SENAT OFFICIALS LOOK UPON INVITATION AS RETURN FOR

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DINNER HOSTED BY STOBBE IN LATE FEBRUARY (REFTEL).
BASED ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE HEAD OF CHANCELLERY
HEIMANN AND SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL BYKOV APRIL 19, SENAT
IS CONVINCED LUNCHEON IS ALSO TIMED TO PROVIDE ABRASIMOV
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH STOBBE AS PART OF OVERALL PRE-
PARATORY EFFORT FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRG IN MAY.
OTHERWISE, SENAT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANYTHING OUT OF
THE ORDINARY WILL BE RAISED BY SOVIETS.

3. FRENCH AND BRITISH MISSIONS HERE HAVE EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT THIS MEETING BETWEEN ABRASIMOV AND
STOBBE COMES TOO QUICKLY ON THE HEELS OF THE FEB. 24
DINNER. PRIVATELY, FRENCH TOLD US THAT THEY WERE UN-
HAPPY WITH STOBBE DISCUSSING IN TOO MUCH DETAIL BERLIN
ISSUES WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,HOW-
EVER, THEY HAVE NOT VOICED OBJECTIONS TO SENAT OFFICIALS.
AT DINNER APRIL 20, FRENCH SENAT LIAISON OFFICER SEEMED
GREATLY RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT SENAT AND GOVERNING MAYOR
ARE NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING GOVERNING MAYOR MEET ON
ANY SORT OF REGULAR SCHEDULE WITH ABRASIMOV. SENAT
ASSURANCES THAT STOBBE DECISION TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE
APRIL 26 INVITATION IS LARGELY A MATTER OF PROTOCOL
COURTESY MAY BE ENOUGH TO MOLLIFY FRENCH. WE DO NOT
IN ANY CASE SEE WHY WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE STOBBE FROM ACCEPT-
ING THIS INVITATION, NOR DO WE FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
APPROPRIATE ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED IN BONN UNTIL THE FRG
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FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS MADE ITS DECISION. AS OF APRIL
21, STOBBE IS WAITING FOR THE VIEWS OF BAHR AND WISHNEWSKY
ET AL, ON WHETHER HE SHOULD ACCEPT.

4. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HEIMANN ALSO TOLD SENAT
LIAISON OFFICERS APRIL 20, HE AND OTHER SENAT OFFICIALS
DO NOT RPT NOT EXPSCT ANYTHING CONCRETE TO COME FROM
BREZHNIV VISIT FOR BERLIN. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, MEETINGS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL00952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780171-0243
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780429/aaaaayal.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c61e54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 474
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2883419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED ABRASIMOV-STOBBE RETURN LUNCHEON
TAGS: PINT, WB, UR, BQG, (ABRASIMOV, PYOTR), (STOBBE, DIETRICH)
To: BONN
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c61e54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014